

Kidd, Swansboro Denied By Carrboro

Written by Mike Kelly
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Former Watauga High soccer coach Doug Kidd has been living a charmed life since leaving the Pioneers for Swansboro three years ago.

He has produced two final four appearances with the Swansboro men's team and he has produced a pair of state championships and a regional finalist with the women. Unfortunately, any hopes Kidd had of winning a third consecutive state championship came to a crashing halt Wednesday night in the Class 2A East Regional Finals.

The Pirates (14-7-2) coughed up two first-half goals and lost to Carrboro 3-0. The win sends Carrboro (17-2-3) into Friday's championship game against Forbush, making its third straight appearance in the state finals. The teams will play at 5 pm Friday afternoon at the WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, NC.

"Carrboro did a good job controlling the play and we didn't defend well," Kidd said. "Carrboro is a very good team. They had a lot of speed and they were the far better team tonight."

Katie Gilmore scored the game's first goal at the six-minute mark of the first half; Samantha Burch made it a 2-0 game with a tally in the 25th minute. The loss also avenged a 4-1 loss to Swansboro in the Eastern Finals last season.

"Carrboro is a much improved team from last year," Kidd said. "And they did a good job pushing the ball up the field. We couldn't defend them as successfully as we wanted."

The Pirates were also missing two of their top players. Becky Burns did not play because of illness and Brenna Kate Grass only played five minutes because of a back injury that's plagued her through the state playoffs.

"I just told our players to keep their heads up," Kidd said. "We had a great season. It was a rebuilding year, some what, and to reach the regional finals was big for our program."

HICKORY FALLS TO CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC

The Hickory High women's soccer team was eliminated by Charlotte Catholic in the Class 3A Western Regional Finals.

The Cougars snapped a scoreless tie late in the first half and defeated the Red Tornadoes 2-0

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Tuesday night. Jane Cline tallied with 28 seconds remaining in the first half for a 1-0 lead at the intermission. Betsy Barnhardt scored an insurance goal in the second half.

The Cougars (21-1-3) will play Raleigh-Cardinal Gibbons (20-0-1) in the state championship game Saturday at 1:30 pm at the WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, NC. The Red Tornadoes, led by former WHS assistant coach Brian Jillings, finished the year with a 16-7-2 record.